



Capitol Riverfront Community Meeting Decision on the Re-Opening of Van Ness February 28, 2011

Background

In late July, DCPS agreed to conduct a feasibility study to determine whether we would have sufficient enrollment to reopen and sustain Van Ness as an elementary school, as well as the capital and operational budget required to reestablish the school.

The feasibility study considered the following data/information:

- Population estimates (including school age children), birth rates, housing information
- Enrollment trends and building capacity at area schools
- Capital expenditure required to retrofit the building for a school program

Key Findings

- Population within half mile of Van Ness is 4,464, with 350 of these individuals of elementary school age (0 – 9 years old). (DC Office of Planning)
 - 176 are between 0 – 3 years old
- Capitol Riverfront residential (completed, under construction, and planned) development totals for approximately 8,703 new residential units. 68% of these units (5,943) are planned construction. (Capitol Riverfront BID)
 - Over 500 of these units have an estimated delivery date of 2013/14.
 - Data is not yet available on the size of these units (single-family, condo, multi-family)
- Population within a half-mile of Van Ness is estimated to increase by 58% by 2015, and 80% by 2020. (DC Office of Planning)
- Population within a half-mile of Tyler ES is estimated to increase by 12% by 2015, and 15% by 2020. (DC Office of Planning)
- Population within a half-mile of Amidon-Bowen ES is estimated to increase by 34% by 2015, with no substantial increase between 2015 and 2020. (DC Office of Planning)
- Capital costs to retrofit the space for an elementary school are *estimated* between \$4 - 5 million. This cost is based on Phase 1 Modernization scope of work and additional dollars required to convert certain spaces back into classrooms.
- Enrollment data for nearby schools indicates that Tyler ES and Amidon-Bowen are not at capacity.

School	Building Capacity	SY10-11 Enrollment
Amidon-Bowen	438	272 (62% of capacity)
Brent	325	327 (100% of capacity)
Tyler	452	348 (77% of capacity)

Decision

While population and development data indicate that there are many new families and homes in the Capitol Riverfront, it is not enough to warrant and sustain opening a new school before SY14-15. The data shows that there will be significant investment in additional homes over the next few years, with a peak between 2015 and 2017.

As we follow the growing population in the Capitol Riverfront area, the following benchmarks will serve as guides to indicate when we have reached the appropriate threshold to re-open Van Ness.

Indicator 1:

Reach an elementary school age population between 350 and 400, with an anticipated grade configuration of at least 2 classes per grade. We cannot assume capturing all children within the appropriate age range, therefore must factor in an appropriate capture rate. Currently DCPS' capture rate for K is 43%. Our capture rate is calculated every year and for the past couple of years we have seen an increase in DCPS overall capture rate.

Indicator 2:

Planned development stays on track to reach goal and is majority single-family and multi-family homes, not condominiums. Condominiums on average bring in only 7 public school students per 100 units, versus 24 and 40 public school students per 100 multi-family and single-family units, respectively. (Fannie Mae Foundation & Urban Institute)

Indicator 3:

The Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education (DME) will be leading a planning and engagement process to update the Master Facilities Plan. DCPS will work with the Office of Public Education Facilities Modernization and DME to reflect Van Ness in the new/updated Master Facilities Plan. The MFP is subject to Council approval and availability of capital funds. DCPS will also engage EYA to discuss their potential contributions to the capital requirements for Van Ness.

If these indicators are met, then we will be prepared to open Van Ness. Given current data, we project opening in SY15-16. DCPS is currently exploring the option to provide families living within the old Bowen boundary a proximity preference for Tyler ES. DCPS must make this decision by Fall 2011 in order to implement this in SY12-13.